

REMARKS

I. PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 2, 5-9, 12-16 and 19-22 are currently pending.

II. IDS

An IDS was filed on January 25, 2008.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim 2 is amended to recite (a) an extraction unit extracting a frame, which is unit data of the audio data; (b) a setting unit setting a reproduction speed of the audio data; (c) a scale factor extraction unit extracting a scale factor included in the frame; (d) a calculation unit calculating an evaluation function from the extracted scale factor, to thereby provide a calculation result; (e) a speed conversion unit comparing the calculation result of the calculation unit with a prescribed threshold value, judging to be a sound section frame if the calculation result is larger than the threshold value and, if a sound section frame is judged, speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame; (f) a decoding unit decoding the speed converted frame; and (g) a reproduction unit reproducing audible sound represented by the audio data from the decoded frame.

Somewhat similar amendments are made to the other independent claims. Support for the claim amendments is found, for example, in FIG. 6 and the disclosure on page 15, lines 4-25, of the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests the features recited in the claims as amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are overcome.

IV. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

A minor amendment is made herein to the specification to correct a clear error.

V. CONCLUSION

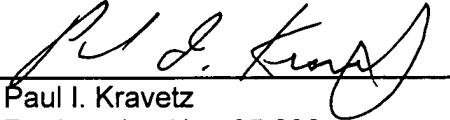
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 18, 2008

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